

# STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1913.

STREET, Somerset,

Feb. 18th, 1914.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the  
year ending December 31st, 1913.

AREA OF PARISH OF STREET—2918 acres.

POPULATION—Census 1911, 4235. Estimated to middle of 1913 at 4332.

GEOLOGY—Lower lias, consisting of alternating beds of limestones, clays and marls.

OCCUPATION—Principally Boot and Shoemaking, Leather-Board Factory, Agricultural, Tanning. Limestone Quarries in the district.

BIRTH-RATE—91 births registered *in* the district (54 males—37 females), giving a birth-rate of 21.006 per 1000 per annum.

Of the births—one was illegitimate—a male. The *corrected Birth-rate* is 21.3 per 1000 per annum. One birth being registered *outside* the district.

DEATH-RATE—33 deaths (14 males—19 females) were registered *in* the district—giving a death-rate of 7.6 per 1000 per annum.

The *nett* number of deaths of persons belonging to the district is 36. (Three deaths of *residents* being returned by the Registrar-General as dying *outside* the district. The corrected death-rate for age and sex distribution is therefore 8.05349.

THE ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE is nil.

THE INFANT MORTALITY per 1000 BIRTHS is 21.9. One death under 1 year being registered *in* the district, and one transferable death *outside* the district.

### For the Year 1912:

Birth-Rate per 1000 living	-	-	-	21.1
Death-Rate (corrected)	-	-	-	10.5
Zymotic Death-Rate	-	-	-	0.23
Infant Mortality per 1000 births	-	-	-	66.6

### Ages Table of Deaths:

Under 1 year there were	-	2 deaths
1 and under 2 years there was	-	1 death
2 " " 5 " " "	-	Nil.
5 " " 15 " " "	-	Nil.
15 " " 25 " " "	-	Nil.
25 " " 45 " " "	were -	6 deaths.
45 " " 65 " " "	-	9 deaths
65 and upwards	-	18 deaths

## Causes of Death during the Year :

Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	-	6
Rheumatic Fever	-	1
Organic Heart Disease	-	4
Bronchitis	-	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	-	3
Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	-	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	-	6
Senile Decay	-	5
Other Defined Diseases	-	6

### Water Supply.

With the exception of a period of a few weeks towards the end of the summer months and in the early Autumn, when the supply had to be carefully husbanded, the supply from the Mendip Hills has been constant, and of good quality. Towards the end of October, however, the yield was insufficient for the demand. For the purpose of a supplementary supply the Urban District Council decided to bore on premises owned by them in the Parish of Rodney Stoke. A bore-hole was sunk to the depth of 300 ft. and for a period of a fortnight test pumping was carried out day and night, some 66,000 gallons of water being raised daily every 24 hours. This water, upon analysis, was found to be good and pure.

This supply was at the end of October pumped direct into the main, and so augmented the diminished supply, no further shortage occurring.

Twelve samples of water from wells in the district have been forwarded to the County Council's Laboratory for analysis—the result being that nine were condemned as unfit for dietetic purposes.

Upwards of 740 houses in the district are now connected with the public supply.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

The Town is sewered throughout, the sewers being periodically flushed by the Council's employees under the direction of the Surveyor.

The sewage is disposed of by means of irrigation on the Sewage Farm, which contain some 50 acres of land. The soil is peaty, the effluent therefrom being clear and satisfactory. No complaint of the pollution of the stream into which the effluent is discharged has been received during the year.

Osiers, root crops, &c., are grown on the Farm, and are a source of income to the Council.

A new sewer for houses off the Goswell Lane has been laid during the year.

Nearly 900 houses in the district have water closets, many of which are supplied with flushing cisterns. I would again remark on the advisability of *all* houses being so supplied.

There are still some few houses in the district with earth closets.

The ash and refuse heaps when not placed on the gardens, are removed by the Council's servants under the direction of the Surveyor. Weekly removals of all ashes and refuse, &c., placed outside the houses, are also collected by the Council's servants.

### Prevalance of Disease.

Influenza and diseases of the respiratory organs prevailed extensively during the months of January, February and March, some cases also occurring in July. In January and February some few cases of Chicken Pox occurred. In February a case of Diphtheria was notified and removed to the Isolation Hospital. In August, September, October, November and December 46 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, 14 of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment. In consequence of the prevalence of the latter disease in the district, I advised the closing of the Infant Department of the Public School. This was carried out for a fortnight. The Upper Department was also closed by the Managers for a week, the whole premises being thoroughly disinfected and cleaned.

Thirty-three deaths of residents were registered *in* the district during the year, against forty-two in 1912. Three deaths of residents being registered *outside* the district. The *nett* deaths being thirty-six.

Six deaths were registered from Cancer or Malignant Disease against five in 1912; three deaths from Pneumonia (all forms) against seven in 1912; four deaths from Heart Disease against three in 1912; two deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis against three in 1912.

The Infant Mortality for the year is remarkably low. Only *one* death under 1 year being actually registered *in* the district, against six in 1912. The second case being transferred from an adjoining district. This low Infantile Death-rate will be particularly gratifying to the ladies comprising the Child Study Circle, the members of which have taken so great an interest in the child life of the district



Advantage has again been taken of the County Council's Public Health Laboratory, its assistance for bacteriological examinations being invaluable.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum has for some time been compulsorily notifiable in the district. No case has been reported during the year. Should such case occur the services of the district nurse will be requisitioned.

No Local Government Board Enquiry has been held in this district during the year.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890, has not been adopted in this district.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907, has only in part been adopted in this district.

The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act 1890, has not been adopted in this district.

The Notification of Births Act 1907, has not been adopted in this district.

### Isolation Hospital.

Joint for Glastonbury and Street, situated midway between the two places, in the Borough of Glastonbury.

A nurse and female caretaker are in charge. Two diseases can concurrently be treated in which case an additional nurse has to be engaged.

A properly equipped discharge-block is on the premises; also a Thresh's Disinfector; an ambulance carriage being kept for joint use.

One case of Diphtheria, and fourteen cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted into the Hospital from this district during the year.

The telephone has been installed on the premises during the year, and has been of very great service.

### Disinfection Means.

Thresh's Disinfector at the Hospital. Disinfection of premises in home isolation is carried out under the Surveyor's orders. The walls being sprayed with formalin or Izal, the rooms sealed and fumigated by formalin or sulphur dioxide.

The rooms of deceased phthisical patients are similarly disinfected under the Surveyor's directions. Disinfection is also carried out in the case of *removals*.

There is no Common Lodging House in the district.

### Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

The number on the register is 18. These are periodically inspected by the Surveyor and myself. They are generally clean and in good order, and limewashed regularly. Some of the sheds, as reported in previous years, are small and deficient in the necessary cubic air space, but as the cows are kept out to grass during the greater part of the year, the animals are rarely in the sheds except for a very short period during the winter. The milk and butter supply is fairly plentiful and in great demand.

### The Licensed Slaughter Houses (5) and Bakehouses (11)

are periodically inspected and instructions for limewashing regularly given.

One case of a tuberculous bullock was reported to me during the year and condemned, and on the certificate of a Magistrate destroyed.

No action has been taken under the Sale of Foods Acts.

### Housing of the Working Classes.

House to house inspections are periodically made by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself. The houses generally are kept clean and well ventilated.

During the year 30 new houses have been erected in the district—including the remaining number of houses erected by the Urban District Council under their Housing Scheme. The addition of these new houses is appreciated, all being occupied. There is hardly a vacant house in the district.

Five cases of overcrowding have been dealt with during the year.

### Under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909,

regular inspections have been made by the Surveyor and myself—the report for 1913 being as follows:—

New houses erected during 1913	...	...	...	...	30
Number of houses inspected during 1913, under the Housing Act, 1909	...	...	...	...	121

Results of inspection of the fresh houses inspected during 1913, classified as follows:

(a) Number reported as unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	3
(b) Number defective, but with defects not sufficient to report as unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	90
(c) Number without recorded sanitary defects	...	...	...	...	28

Action taken and results in regard to houses reported as unfit during 1912-13, as follows :—

		For houses reported during	
		1912.	1913.
Number so reported	...	1	3
Closing order made	...	1	2
Made fit without a closing order	...	0	0
Still unfit, but no closing order made	...	0	1 voluntarily closed
Demolished	...	0	0
Put into repair after closing order	...	0	1 work in hand
Still closed at end of 1913	...	1	2

Action taken with regard to defective houses, but not sufficient to report as unfit, as follows :—

		For houses first examined during	
		1912.	1913.
Number so examined	...	74	90
Number with defects remedied by end of 1913	...	64	54
Number still defective at end of 1913	...	10	36
Number not yet visited to ascertain if defects are remedied	...	0	0
Cases of overcrowding dealt with during the year	...		4

### Factories and Workshops Acts.

A register is kept. The number of Factories is 4. Number of Workshops 148, and Workplaces (Tailors) 8. These are inspected periodically by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself, and enquiry made with regard to their sanitation, ventilation, means of escape in case of fire, and the provision of suitable sanitary conveniences.

Messrs. C. & J. Clark have added further up-to-date sanitary conveniences to their factory, and the sanitary arrangements at the Avalon Leather Board Factory have been improved.

### Public Schools.

There is one large Public Council School in the district, and a smaller one for infants at Overleigh. A Private Secondary School has also been established in the village. The sanitary accommodation and water supply for each is good.

A School Nurse and Health Visitor assist at the inspections of the children, which are carried out by the County Council's Inspectors. In known cases of infectious disease, the attendance of children from infected homes is prohibited.

I have visited the Schools repeatedly during the year with especial reference to the cases of Scarlet Fever in the district, and received valuable assistance from the staff in attempting to trace the disease. Two cases of children attending School whilst desquamating were detected and isolated at once. As previously reported the Infant Department of the Council School was closed for two weeks in the Autumn, and the Upper Department for a week, the whole premises being thoroughly disinfected and cleaned.

During the year I have officially excluded from School 5 cases of Ringworm, 12 of Chicken Pox, 1 of Diphtheria, 1 of Scabies, 1 of Impetigo, and 30 of Scarlet Fever.

### Tuberculosis.

Twenty-nine cases of Tuberculosis have been notified during the year, two of which have proved fatal.

All fresh cases are notified weekly to the County Medical Officer of Health, and are then visited by the County Tuberculosis Health Visitor. The majority of the cases have attended at the County Council's Tuberculosis Dispensary, at Glastonbury, and a considerable number have been sent away to Sanatoria for treatment. A further number have had shelters provided by the County Council or Nursing Association.

All cases are kept under observation, and in case of removal or death the premises are disinfected.

I append Tables of Statistics as required by the Local Government Board; together with the Report of the Inspector of Nuisances (Mr. W. Horace Cousins) to whose hearty co-operation I am greatly indebted.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**GEORGE W. EGLINTON.**



## Annual Report of the Inspector of Nuisances for the year 1913.

Total number of dwelling houses at end of 1913	...	...	982
" " " Inspections and re-inspections of houses and premises under all Acts	...	...	450

### NUISANCES DEALT WITH UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Defective drains	...	...	...	...	22
" yard sinks	...	...	...	...	26
" intercepting trap	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of manure, offal, ashes, &c.	...	...	...	...	9
Swine kept within the limited distance	...	...	...	...	1
Animals kept in dirty condition	...	...	...	...	1
Fowls kept so as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	1
Defective vent shafts	...	...	...	...	2
Defective and dangerous walls alongside public roads	...	...	...	...	2
WATER CLOSETS :—Broken and defective pans	...	...	...	...	8
Structurally defective	...	...	...	...	4
Newly erected	...	...	...	...	7
UNSOUND MEAT :—Carcases of bullocks in state of Tuberculosis seized and destroyed	...	...	...	...	2
Houses overcrowded	...	...	...	...	1

### LICENSED SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Periodically inspected and limewashed every 3 months	...	5
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BAKEHOUSES.—Periodically inspected and limewashed	...	11
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### DAIRIES & COWSHEDS.

Periodically inspected and limewashed	...	...	18
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A register of Dairies and Cowsheds is kept.

### FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

Periodically inspected :—Factories	...	...	...	4
Outworkers workrooms	...	...	...	148
Other workrooms (tailors, &c.)	...	...	...	8

The sanitary arrangements at the Avalon Leather Board Factory have been much improved.

Chrome Tanning has again been started at the old Tannery.

### DISINFECTING.

Rooms disinfected after Scarlatina	...	...	...	25
" " " Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
" " " Consumption	...	...	...	9
Shelters	...	...	...	3

Owing to the outbreak of Scarlatina, the Council Schools were disinfected throughout. Formalin and Izal are used for spraying.

### WATER SUPPLY.

Samples of water taken from wells, and bacteriologically examined	12
Samples found to be unfit for drinking purposes	9

During the year a bore-hole was sunk to a depth of 300 ft. in the old Mill Yard at Rodney Stoke, to provide a supplementary supply of water during seasons of drought. From Oct. 13th, 1913 to Oct. 27th test pumping continued day and night for 14 days, during which period 66,000 gallons per day were raised. Analysis of the water both chemically bacteriologically proved it to be quite pure.

The yield of the original springs of the public supply, in common with many public supplies decreased considerably towards the end of the very dry summer, and right up to the end of October, when the yield was not sufficient for the demand. The new borehole supply however was ready exactly at the right time, and this was temporarily connected into the mains, and so relieved the anxiety and possible inconvenience.

#### SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE.

All sewers are periodically flushed by the Council's workmen.

A new 9 inch sewer has been laid in Goswell Lane, and practically all the houses have been connected up.

#### SCAVENGING & COLLECTING OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This has been re-organized during the year, regular and systematic collections being made every Friday, and the refuse disposed of by tipping into old quarry pits and eventually buried.

#### HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING ACT.

During the year 128 houses and premises have been inspected under this Act.

The following defects have been recorded :

Houses kept in unclean state	...	...	...	9
Insufficiency of light in rooms	...	...	...	9
" " ventilation owing to windows not opening properly	...	...	...	10
No through ventilation	...	...	...	10
Dampness in houses from various causes	...	...	...	32
Defective guttering and spouting	...	...	...	7
Roofs with no guttering and sprouting	...	...	...	16
WATER CLOSETS:—Pans in dirty state	...	...	...	3
Pans cracked and broken	...	...	...	11
Insufficient accommodation	...	...	...	1
Insufficiently ventilated	...	...	...	1
Earth closet receptacles filthy and defective	...	...	...	2
Houses requiring whitewashing	...	...	...	24
Houses overcrowded	...	...	...	4
Defective and dangerous chimneys	...	...	...	4
" roofs	...	...	...	4
" floors	...	...	...	6
" stairs	...	...	...	1
" ceilings and plastered walls	...	...	...	12
Walls structurally defective	...	...	...	7
Paving in yards defective	...	...	...	23
Houses unfit for habitation	...	...	...	3
Closing orders made	...	...	...	2
House voluntarily closed	...	...	...	1

W. HORACE COUSINS, P.A.S.I., M.I.Mun.E.,

Certificated Royal Sanitary Institute,

Inspector of Nuisances.